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508 Transportation Unit Machine Shop

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1. Between May and September 1952, the 508 Transportation Unit of the Rear Service Section of the Transportation Ministry had a machine shop at Pusam-ni (125-12, 39-16) (YD-3349). The machine shop made vehicle parts for use in the maintenance of vehicles of the 508 Unit. It was commanded by a North Korean army lieutenant colonel and had 400 employees including 50 technicians. The shop equipment included six lathes, one drill press, one electric saw, and a completely equipped foundry.

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The 105 Mechanized Brigade

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2. Before the end of June, the infantry units formerly under the command of the 105 Armored Division were transferred to other units. The mechanized troops of the division were retained and in late June the division was reorganized into the 105 Mechanized Brigade with headquarters at Sadong-ni (125-49, 39-01) (YD-4422). About 450 tank crew members were seen around the headquarters.

The VIII Corps

3. In July 1952 the VIII Corps with two infantry divisions and one mechanized division was organized in the Sinuiju (124-23, 40-06) (XE-1839) area.²

The 591 Unit

4. In July 1952 the headquarters of the 591 Unit was at YD-3628, north of P'yōng-yang. The unit was a 1,500-man convoy regiment attached to the Rear Service Bureau of the North Korean army general headquarters. The 1 Battalion was at YD-3628, the 2 Battalion was at Sariwōn (125-45, 38-30) (YC-4064) guarding supply dumps, and the 3 Battalion was at YD-366301, also north of P'yōngyang. The unit guarded factories and supply dumps and convoyed war supplies. It was made up of soldiers who were unfit for combat duty.

Officers Reassignment Center

5. In early September the headquarters of an officers reassignment center³ was at YD-450335, near Kanji-ri (125-50, 39-07) (YD-4533). The permanent staff of the center included 100 officers. The commanding officer was Colonel YI Tong-am (2621/2639/1484). The 1 Company, with 300 men, was at YD-513258, near To-dong (125-53, 39-03) (YD-4926); the 2 Company, with 250 men, was at YD-513256; the 3 Company, with 280 men, was at YD-319413, near Sunan (125-41, 39-12) (YD-3242); and the 4 Company, with 320 men, was at YD-319413. The officers at the center were awaiting new assignments or were waiting to be returned to their units after having recovered from wounds.

Tank Unit

6. On 31 October a tank unit, with 70 tanks, 20 trucks, and 7 jeeps was in caves in a hill at YD-260362, north of Sadang (125-37, 39-09) (YD-2636). The tanks mounted 120-mm. guns.⁴ Civilians were moved out of the nearby village.

The II Corps

7. On 17 September approximately 3,000 poorly equipped troops from the II Corps, believed to be replacements, were transferred from the east coast to the central front. On approximately 19 September these troops were joined by an unknown Chinese Communist division at P'an'gyo-ri (127-41, 38-33) (CT-8567). Both units started moving south. The Chinese Communist troops had artillery and 8 self-propelled guns.

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Comment. These may be Soviet JS-2 heavy tanks, which mount a 122-mm.

gun.

only 12 JS-2 tanks were known to be in North Korea.

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